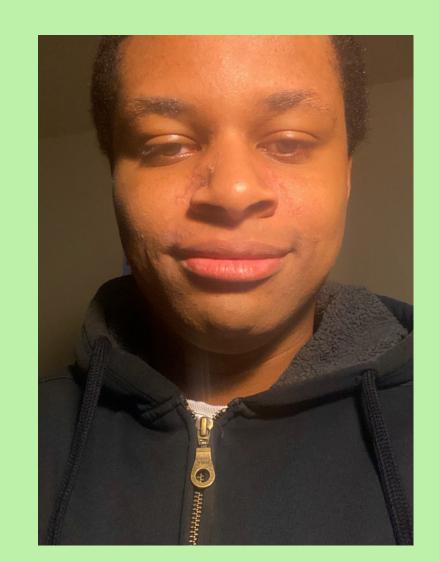


SDMNY Decision-Makers are a talented group, and Chris is no exception. He's a photographer who has been taking photos around the city, as well as on his travels. He also channels his creativity into his work for Harlem Grown, where he has taken pictures at their 134th Street farm and greenhouse. As a special holiday treat, we've included a few of his amazing images at the bottom of this page; you can check out more of Chris's work on his Instagram account, @inspiringphotos9.



Chris is 26, lives in Harlem, and works for Wayfarer Studios doing data entry to support film and tv productions. He dreams of being a web designer, and his creativity and willingness to work hard should serve him well in that pursuit. His facilitator, Lori Lerner (who also serves on SDMNY's Advisory Council) underscored this, when she said, at his signing ceremony, "Chris wants to keep learning and growing, wants to continue to develop his skills, works hard, identifies and sets goals, continues to work towards those goals, has perseverance and can be devoted to his goals, and has an openness to new jobs and new experiences. It was a really valuable experience to work with him and I felt and feel like I cheer him on (in the background) because I really want him to succeed in his journey."

At his signing earlier this week, Chris was also joined by his two supporters, and SDMNY mentor Matthew "Hezzy" Smith. Thanking Lori for "really taking the time out to help me with my decision-making," his most heartfelt praise was for his mother, who he described as his "rock." He said "Mom, I know you've really stuck by my side pretty much throughout my life no matter what you've been through. I know you are always going to be on my side regardless of what happens in my life."

Asked how he envisions using his SDMA in the future, Chris replied "One day when I tell my story, it could be anywhere, if I'm doing a presentation or job interview, I'll mention SDMNY as one of my stories. I'll talk about how it helped me as far as decision-making and helped me to be the best decision-maker I can be."

We know his future will be bright, and we're hoping he'll consider joining the SDMNY team as our official photographer! But, in the meanwhile,

CONGRATULATIONS TO CHRIS, HIS SUPPORTERS, AND FACILITATOR LORI, AND THANKS FOR HELPING US FINISH AN AMAZING YEAR ON SUCH A HIGH NOTE!

